

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend claims 1, 16, 27 and 34. Please cancel claims 14, 15, 25, 26, 32 and 33.

Please add new claims 35-40. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1. 1. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera apparatus, comprising:
  2. an electronic optical sensing apparatus, said electronic optical sensing apparatus sensing optical images and converting sensed images to an electronic signal;
  3. a buffer memory;
  4. a video storage medium interface for storing video images captured by said optical sensing apparatus on a storage medium; and
  5. a controller which operates said electronic camera apparatus in at least one mode, said at least one mode including a first mode wherein said controller concurrently causes said video storage medium interface to store motion video captured by said optical sensing apparatus on a video storage medium at a first resolution, and to temporarily store video frames captured by said optical sensing apparatus in said buffer memory, and responsive to a first user command, saves at least one frame from said buffer memory in a persistent form at a second resolution, said second resolution being finer than said first resolution;
  6. wherein said controller, responsive to said first user command, saves a user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent form at said second resolution, said user-selectable portion being potentially less than all of the buffer contents; and
  7. wherein said user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer is determined by playing the contents of said buffer back to the user on a display of said camera, and receiving a user selection corresponding to a beginning frame to be saved in said persistent form.

1       2. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electronic optical  
2       sensing apparatus, said buffer memory, said video storage medium and said controller are  
3       mounted within a common hand-held camera housing.

1       3. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electronic optical  
2       sensing apparatus is mounted in a housing remote from said buffer memory, said video storage  
3       medium and said controller.

1       4. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller comprises  
2       a programmable processor executing a control program for controlling the operation of said  
3       electronic camera apparatus.

1       5. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said optical sensing  
2       apparatus comprises a charge-coupled device (CCD) array.

1       6. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller operating  
2       in said first mode stores each video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus in said buffer  
3       during a respective temporary period.

1       7. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller operating  
2       in said first mode stores every Nth video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus in said  
3       buffer during a respective temporary period, where  $N > 1$ .

1       8. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 7, wherein  $N$  is a user-selectable  
2       parameter.

1 9. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said buffer is organized as  
2 at least one circular buffer in which the oldest stored frame is overwritten with a new frame when  
3 the new frame is captured.

1 10. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 9, wherein said buffer is organized as  
2 a plurality of circular buffers, each circular buffer storing frames at a respective resolution, a first  
3 circular buffer storing frames at a higher resolution than a second circular buffer.

1 11. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein a resolution of frames  
2 stored in said buffer is a user-selectable parameter.

1 12. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller, responsive  
2 to said first user command, saves the entire contents of said buffer memory in a persistent form at  
3 said second resolution.

1 13. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller, responsive  
2 to said first user command, saves a fixed portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a  
3 persistent form at said second resolution, said fixed portion being less than all of the buffer  
4 contents.

14 - 15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an electronic camera apparatus, comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 capturing a sequence of optical images with an electronic optical sensing apparatus;  
4 storing motion video images from said sequence of optical images on a motion video  
5 storage medium at a first resolution;

6 temporarily storing image data from said sequence of optical images in a buffer, said step  
7 of temporarily storing image data being performed concurrently with said step of storing motion  
8 video images; and

9 responsive to a user command, saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent  
10 form at a second resolution, said second resolution being finer than said first resolution;

11 wherein said step of saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent form  
12 comprises saving a user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent  
13 form at said second resolution, said user-selectable portion being potentially less than all of the  
14 buffer contents; and

15 wherein said user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer is determined by playing  
16 the contents of said buffer back to the user on a display of said camera, and receiving a user  
17 selection corresponding to a beginning frame to be saved in said persistent form.

1 17. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein  
2 each video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus is stored in said buffer during a  
3 respective temporary period.

1 18. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein  
2 every Nth video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus is stored in said buffer during a  
3 respective temporary period, where  $N > 1$ .

1 19. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 18, wherein  
2 N is a user-selectable parameter.

1 20. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein  
2 said buffer is organized as at least one circular buffer in which the oldest stored frame is  
3 overwritten with a new frame when the new frame is captured.

1 21. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 20, wherein  
2 said buffer is organized as a plurality of circular buffers, each circular buffer storing frames at a  
3 respective resolution, a first circular buffer storing frames at a higher resolution than a second  
4 circular buffer.

1 22. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein  
2 a resolution of frames stored in said buffer is a user-selectable parameter.

1 23. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein  
2 said step of saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent form comprises saving the  
3 entire contents of said buffer memory in a persistent form at said second resolution.

1 24. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein  
2 said step of saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent form comprises saving a  
3 fixed portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent form at said second resolution,  
4 said fixed portion being less than all of the buffer contents.

25 - 26. (Cancelled)

1 27. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an electronic camera apparatus, comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 capturing a continuous stream of optical images with an electronic optical sensing  
4 apparatus;

5 temporarily storing image data from said continuous stream of optical images in a circular  
6 buffer, said circular buffer being continuously overwritten by new image data from said  
7 continuous stream of optical images;

8 responsive to a user command, saving at least some image data from said buffer in a  
9 persistent form;

10 wherein said step of saving at least some image data from said buffer in a persistent form  
11 comprises saving a user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent  
12 form, said user-selectable portion being potentially less than all of the buffer contents, and  
13 wherein said user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer is determined by playing  
14 the contents of said buffer back to the user on a display of said camera, and receiving a user  
15 selection corresponding to a beginning frame to be saved in said persistent form.

1 28. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 27, wherein  
2 said step of saving at least some image data from said buffer in a persistent form saves at least  
3 some frames at a first resolution, said method further comprising the step of:

4 storing motion video from said continuous stream of optical images on a motion video  
5 storage medium at a second resolution, said first resolution being finer than said second  
6 resolution, said storing motion video step being performed concurrently with said temporarily  
7 storing image data step.

1 29. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 27, wherein  
2 every Nth video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus is stored in said circular buffer  
3 during a respective temporary period.

1 30. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 29, wherein  
2 N is a user-selectable parameter, at least one user-selectable value of N being greater than 1.

1 31. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 27, wherein  
2 said step of saving at least some image data from said buffer in a persistent form comprises saving  
3 a fixed portion of said buffer memory in a persistent form.

32 - 33. (Cancelled)

1 34. (Currently Amended) A program product for controlling the operation of an electronic  
2 camera apparatus, said electronic camera apparatus having an electronic optical sensing apparatus  
3 for sensing optical images and converting sensed images to an electronic signal, said program  
4 product comprising a plurality of processor executable instructions recorded on signal-bearing  
5 media, wherein said instructions, when executed by at least one programmable processor of said  
6 electronic camera apparatus, cause the apparatus to perform the steps of:

7 capturing a sequence of optical images with said electronic optical sensing apparatus;  
8 storing motion video images from said sequence of optical images on a motion video  
9 storage medium at a first resolution;

10 temporarily storing image data from said sequence of optical images in a buffer, said step  
11 of temporarily storing image data being performed concurrently with said step of storing motion  
12 video images; and

13 responsive to a user command, saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent  
14 form at a second resolution, said second resolution being finer than said first resolution

15 wherein said step of saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent form  
16 comprises saving a user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent  
17 form at said second resolution, said user-selectable portion being potentially less than all of the  
18 buffer contents; and

19 wherein said user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer is determined by playing  
20 the contents of said buffer back to the user on a display of said camera, and receiving a user  
21 selection corresponding to a beginning frame to be saved in said persistent form.

1 35. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein each video frame captured by said  
2 optical sensing apparatus is stored in said buffer during a respective temporary period.

1 36. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein every Nth video frame captured by said  
2 optical sensing apparatus is stored in said buffer during a respective temporary period, where  $N > 1$ .

1 37. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein said buffer is organized as at least one  
2 circular buffer in which the oldest stored frame is overwritten with a new frame when the new  
3 frame is captured.

1 38. (New) The program product of claim 37, wherein said buffer is organized as a plurality of  
2 circular buffers, each circular buffer storing frames at a respective resolution, a first circular  
3 buffer storing frames at a higher resolution than a second circular buffer.

1 39. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein a resolution of frames stored in said  
2 buffer is a user-selectable parameter.

1 40. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein said step of saving at least some images  
2 from said buffer in a persistent form comprises saving the entire contents of said buffer memory  
3 in a persistent form at said second resolution.